
Pedestrian Safety

MISSION STATEMENT

Montgomery County is committed to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility for everyone. Our goals are to reduce collisions and make the County a more walkable community. The County Executive has created a comprehensive pedestrian safety strategic plan with specific performance measures, timelines and budgets for achieving recommended actions. Ongoing evaluations will ensure the proposed engineering, enforcement, and education solutions are really working. Multiple agencies throughout the county will work together to install infrastructure improvements, educate residents on safe driving and walking behavior, enforce traffic laws, encourage safety innovations, and evaluate results to guide future actions.

LINKAGE TO COUNTY RESULT AREAS

- ❖ An Effective and Efficient Transportation Network
- ❖ Healthy and Sustainable Communities
- ❖ Safe Streets and Secure Neighborhoods

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Tom Pogue of the Department of Transportation at 240.777.7171 or Alexandra Shabelski of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2785 for more information regarding this initiative's operating budget.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

County Executive Leggett has pledged to make improving pedestrian safety and making our communities more walkable a priority of his administration. The Pedestrian Safety Initiative outlines a comprehensive approach to meet that commitment. This is a collaborative effort of the County Executive, and the County Council, as well as the M-NCPPC's Planning Board. This plan provides Montgomery County, for the first time, with a blueprint for pedestrian safety activities based on measurable strategies.

In January 2002, a Blue Ribbon Panel for Pedestrian and Traffic Safety issued its report identifying 54 recommendations to reduce pedestrian collisions and fatalities. For the past six years, these recommendations have guided County efforts to improve safety for pedestrians and make Montgomery County a more walkable community. Progress has been made. Regional surveys have shown that awareness of pedestrian safety issues has increased both among the driving and walking public. But, with an average of 430 pedestrian collisions each year in Montgomery County between 2003 and 2006, it is clear that more needs to be done.

To achieve increased pedestrian mobility and safety, this plan establishes goals to reduce pedestrian-related crashes, injuries, fatalities, and their associated social and economic costs; and to ensure that all areas of the County provide safe and convenient travel options for pedestrians.

The initiative sets out timeframes and budgets for new and enhanced efforts to achieve each strategy, starting with fiscal year 2009. The strategic approach to achieve the goals and objectives of this initiative are as follows:

- Strategy 1:** Target pedestrian safety improvements in High Incidence Areas;
- Strategy 2:** Assess and improve pedestrian network and connectivity needs;
- Strategy 3:** Increase emphasis on pedestrians and bicyclists in the planning process;
- Strategy 4:** Identify and implement corridor and intersection modifications and traffic calming treatments;
- Strategy 5:** Upgrade pedestrian signals;
- Strategy 6:** Assess and enhance street lighting; and
- Strategy 7:** Modify pedestrian and driver behavior through enhanced enforcement and educational efforts.

The County Executive recommends nearly \$30.0 million in FY09 expenditures in support of pedestrian safety. The FY09 Recommended Operating Budget includes \$1.5 million for pedestrian safety initiatives. In addition, the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) includes \$28.5 million in expenditures for FY09. The County Executive recommends increased funding of \$800,000 in the FY09 CIP to conduct four safety audits in High Incidence Areas (\$100,000); to fund physical improvements such as signals, lights, and signs identified in the safety audits (\$600,000); and for education and outreach (\$100,000).

County Executive's Pedestrian Safety Initiative

FY09 Recommended Capital Improvements Program and Operating Budget

Department	Project/Program	FY09 Recommended
Capital Improvements Program (CIP)		
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission	Rock Creek Trail Pedestrian Bridge	\$4,334,000
	Black Hill Trail Renovation and Extension	2,641,000
	Trails: Hard Surface Design and Construction	300,000
	Trails: Natural Surface Design, Construction & Renovation	200,000
	Trails: Hard Surface Renovation	168,000
	Total M-NCPPC (CIP)	\$7,643,000
Housing and Community Development	South Silver Spring Pedestrian Linkages	680,000
	Fenton Street Village Pedestrian Linkages	250,000
	Long Branch Pedestrian Linkages	171,000
	Total Housing and Community Development (CIP)	\$1,101,000
Department of Transportation	Sidewalk & Infrastructure Revitalization	6,000,000
	Bus Stop Improvements	2,000,000
	Matthew Henson Trail	350,000
	Greentree Road Sidewalk	170,000
	Shady Grove Access Bike Path	1,256,000
	MacArthur Blvd Bikeway Improvements	426,000
	Annual Sidewalk Program	1,350,000
	Annual Bikeway Program	295,000
	ADA Compliance: Transportation	1,495,000
	U.S. 29 Sidewalks	1,983,000
	Dale Drive Sidewalk	1,118,000
	Falls Road East Side Hiker/Biker Path	180,000
	Transportation Improvements for Schools	200,000
	Friendship Heights Pedestrian-Transit Enhancement	52,000
	Pedestrian Safety Program (includes \$800K CE Amendment)	1,000,000
	Streetlight Enhancements-CBD/Town Center	250,000
	Intersection and Spot Improvements	560,000
	Streetlighting	750,000
	Neighborhood Traffic Calming	310,000
	Total Dept of Transportation (CIP)	\$19,745,000
	TOTAL FY09 CIP	\$28,489,000
Operating Budget (PSP)		
Department of Transportation	Pedestrian Safety/General Fund	70,000
	Street Smart Campaign	45,000
	Pedestrian Safety Coordinator	102,500
	Sidewalks/General Fund	163,200
	Unique Crosswalk Treatments	60,000
	Contract Crosswalk Installation	201,000
	Street Lighting/General Fund	440,200
	Pedestrian Buffer Treatments	100,000
	School Zone Pedestrian Treatments	80,000
	Pedestrian Countdown Signals	164,000
Public Information Office	Pedestrian Safety Outreach Education	50,000
	TOTAL FY09 PSP	\$1,475,900
	TOTAL FY09 RECOMMENDED EXPENDITURES (CIP & PSP)	\$29,964,900

Note: This table is not a comprehensive list of pedestrian safety activities undertaken by Montgomery County. It displays the capital projects and operating programs that are specifically targeted to improve pedestrian safety. There are additional costs in individual capital projects not displayed above, including sidewalk construction, street lighting, and other elements in support of pedestrian safety. In addition, there are other operating budget programs that support pedestrian safety including traffic enforcement and school crossing guards in the Police Department.